

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 10822 240318Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----008314 240320Z /62
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8385

S E C R E T SEOUL 10822

EXDIS - DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJECT: TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR: PARK LETTER AND MPAA

REF: STATE 306650

SUMMARY: FORNMN APPRECIATES EFFORTS MADE. WILL USE EXCHANGE
OF LETTER APPROACH. WILL ATTEMPT SELL NEW PARA. 8 WORDING.
WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MOFA'S PARK
SANG YONG AND POLCOUNS CLARK, I DISCUSSED PROPOSALS REFTEL WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER MONRING DECEMBER 24. HE WAS GRATIFIED WITH
WORDING PROPOSED FOR NEW PARK LETTER AND OPTED FOR EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS TO ACHIEVE THIS. I THEREFORE PROVIDED HIM WITH
A LETTER FROM ME TO PARK TONGSUN ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED
WITH FINAL PARA. MODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE PARA. 1 REFTEL. I
ALSO PROVIDED PROPOSED ONE SENTENCE REPONSE FROM PARK,
AGAIN TAKEN FROM PARA. 1 REFTEL. I STRESSED RESPONSE MUST
BE UNCONDITIONAL.

2. WITH RESPECT TO WORDING PARA. 8, FOREIGN MINISTER
WAS APPRECIATIVE OF PROGRESS MADE, BUT STILL SOMEWHAT
CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE REACTION OF HIS COLLEAGUES.
HE ASKED FOR STATEMENT OF WHAT NEW WORDING IMPLIED.

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I SAID THAT PARK'S CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF ROKG
WHICH OCCURRED IN THE UNITED STATES COULD BE SUBJECT
OF QUESTION. OUTSIDE UNITED STATES, ONLY SUBJECT FOR
QUESTIONING REGARDING PRESENT ROKG OFFICIALS WOULD BE
STATEMENTS MADE IN PRESENCE OF U.S. OFFICIAL AND TSP.
HE ASKED WHY FORMER OFFICIALS HAD BEEN DROPPED AND I
EXPLAINED THAT CERTAIN FORMER OFFICIALS, E.G., KIM

SANG GUN, HAD ALREADY MADE STATEMENTS AND THEREFORE
COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. HE ACCEPTED THIS.

3. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED
IF EXPLANATION I HAD PROVIDED WAS IN MY INSTRUCTION.
I INFORMED HIM THAT IT WAS NOT, BUT SAID I WAS CERTAIN
MY INTERPRETATION WAS ACCURATE. FOR THE RECORD AND TO
HELP HIM IN HIS DEALINGS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES, HE ASKED
IF I WOULD REQUEST FROM WASHINGTON A PRECISE EXPLANATION
OF QUESTIONING ENVISIONED UNDER NEW LANGUAGE WITH, IF
POSSIBLE, EXAMPLES OF SITUATIONS IN U.S. AND KOREA
WHICH MIGHT BE COVERED. HE ASKED IF SUCH EXPLANATION
COULD BE PROVIDED IN WRITING. I AGREED TO REQUEST
THIS FROM WASHINGTON.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED TO HAVE EXTREME
MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE ACCEPTABILITY OF OUR PROPOSED
MODIFICATION TO HIS COLLEAGUES WHO HAD GIVEN HIM A
VERY DIFFICULT TIME ON THIS ISSUE. I ASSURED HIM THAT
WE HAD MADE A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION AT HIS URGING
AND THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO HIM TO CONVINCE HIS COLLEAGUES
THAT THE NEW LANGUAGE WAS IN THEIR BEST INTEREST AND
SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. I FRUTHER ASSURED HIM THAT IT WAS
MY BELIEF WE HAD PROTECTED THE BASIC CONCERNS OF THE
ROKG. I TOLD HIM THAT THERE WAS NO MORE GIVE IN
WASHINGTON ON THIS ISSUE. ON THIS BASIS, HE AGREED
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TO MAKE HIS BEST EFFORT TO HAVE OUR NEW WORDING
ACCEPTED.

5. COMMENT: INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL WERE MUCH APPRECIATED
AND I BELIEVE PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT NOW WITH
THE KOREANS, ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE A LAPSE OF A FEW
DAYS OVER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. I INTEND TO HANG TOUGH ON
NEW WORDING PROVIDED FOR PARA. 8 UNLESS KOREANS COME
UP WITH FORMULA THAT APPEARS ACCEPTABLE TO US. WOULD
APPRECIATE A FEW EXAMPLES OF SITUATIONS COVERED IN EXCEPTION
CLAUSE WHICH WOULD AMELIORATE ANY RESIDUAL CONCERNS ON
KOREAN SIDE, ALTHOUGH I HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT "SACRED
COWS" ON THEIR SIDE ARE PROTECTED. MERRY CHRISTMAS*
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: LITIGATION, BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR: PARK LETTER
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, TONGSUN PARK
To: STATE
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